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BENNETT RECEIVES LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator Bob Bennett (R-Utah) was today presented the Legislator of the Year Award from the Intellectual Property Owners Association.

"It is in our best economic interest to do all we can to encourage invention, innovation and investment," said Bennett. "I'm honored to receive this award and will continue my efforts in the Senate to protect and promote the work of these impressive inventions and innovations which contribute to our nation's economic security."

Each year the Intellectual Property Owners Association recognizes America's most outstanding recent inventor and one influential legislator in their efforts to increase public awareness of current inventors and how their work benefits the nation's economy and our quality of life.

As a Senate leader in high-tech issues, including work on the Senate Republican High-Tech Task Force, Bennett recognizes the link between protecting inventions and continued economic growth. In the last Congress, he played a key role in breaking six years of Senate gridlock on the American Inventors Protection Act.

In addition, Bennett forged a bipartisan Senate coalition that was instrumental in boosting spending for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to more than \$133 million above the level approved by the House of Representatives. This year Bennett has worked to ensure that PTO funding remains on the high-tech agenda.